

**Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens:
Potentially violent demonstration in Athens
February 11 and 12, 2012**

The U.S. Embassy recommends that U.S. citizens avoid the Syntagma Square area during the afternoons and evenings of February 11 and 12, 2012.

On Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12, 2012, a number of demonstrations are planned in the Syntagma Square area of Central Athens. The Greek Parliament is currently expected to vote over the weekend on a package of economic reforms and austerity measures related to securing additional EU financial support, and this could affect the mood of the demonstrators. Already on February 10, 2012, thousands of protesters gathered nearby, with some throwing objects including Molotov cocktails, and authorities responding with tear gas. The situation is unpredictable, and we want to remind U.S. citizens that there exists the continued potential for violence during the demonstrations outside Parliament.

Remember, even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence without warning. Avoid areas of demonstrations and, if you are within the vicinity of any demonstrations, remain vigilant and exercise caution.

Review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings and local events, monitor local news stations for updates, and report specific incidences of targeted violence to the U.S. Embassy in Athens. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security. For additional information, please refer to "[A Safe Trip Abroad](#)."

Current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, a regular toll line at +1-202-501-4444 for callers from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). You can also stay up to date by bookmarking our [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), which contains the current [Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts](#) as well as the [Worldwide Caution](#). You can follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well.

We strongly recommend that U.S. Citizens and nationals traveling to or residing in Greece enroll in the [State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment](#)

Program (STEP). U.S. Citizens and nationals without Internet access may enroll directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Enrolling signs you up to receive updated information about areas abroad and makes it easier for the U.S. Embassy or Consulate to contact you or your designated contact in case of emergency.

You can contact the U.S. Embassy in Athens or the U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki for general consular assistance and up-to-date information on conditions in Greece. The U.S. Embassy in Athens is open 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday-Friday, except on Greek and American official holidays. The U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 13:00, except on Greek and American official holidays. The U.S. Embassy in Athens can be reached by e-mail at athensamericancitizenservices@state.gov or by telephone at 210-720-2419, -2415, or -2420. Please call 210-729-4444 for after-hours emergencies. The U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki can be reached by e-mail at info@usconsulate.gr or by telephone at 2310- 242- 905. Please call 2310- 242-905 and dial 0 at the prompt for after-hours emergencies.